

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 7-8 and 15-18 are "objected to." Claims 1 and 26 are amended to include the features of "objected to" claim 7, and claim 7 is cancelled. Claim 15 is rewritten in independent form and includes the features of its base claim.

Claim 32 is added, and is similar to claim 15 but, for example, is written in "method" form.

Withdrawn claims 6, 9-14, 19-25 and 27-31 are cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-5, 8, 15-18, 26 and 32 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is introduced through the amendments.

II. SPECIFICATION

At item 3, page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts the title is not descriptive. Applicants have amended the title as appropriate and respectfully submit the new title is descriptive as now presented.

III. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 5 and 7 are objected to because of informalities. Claim 5 has been amended as appropriate, and claim 7 has been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the claim objections be withdrawn.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER WATTERSON ET AL. (US PG PUB. NO. 2004/0091002) IN VIEW OF KORN ET AL. (US PATENT NO. 6,407,376)

Claim 1 is amended to recite the "objected to" features of claim 7. Claims 2-3 depend directly from allowable claim 1, and are allowable for somewhat similar reasons to that of claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted the rejection is overcome.

V. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4-5 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER WATTERSON ET AL. IN VIEW OF KORN ET AL. AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF IIDA ET AL. (US PATENT NO. 6,597,480)

Claim 1 is amended to recite the "objected to" features of claim 7. Claims 4-5 depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 1, and are allowable for somewhat similar reasons to that of claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted the rejection is overcome.

VI. CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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